

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently Amended) The ~~radiation-shield~~ device containment apparatus of claim [[3]] 43, and further comprising an end cap formed of a radiation shielding material, the end cap positioned at one end of the first plurality of panels to cap an opening formed at the end of the plurality of panels.

5. (Currently Amended) The ~~radiation-shield~~ device containment apparatus of claim [[1]] 43, and further comprising a frame including the ~~upper~~ first frame ring and the ~~lower~~ second frame ring, wherein the vessel is at least partially disposed within the frame and the panels are ~~coupled to the~~ frame.

6. (Currently Amended) The ~~radiation-shield~~ device containment apparatus of claim 5, wherein the frame rings are coupled to the vessel.

7. (Currently Amended) The ~~radiation-shield~~ device containment apparatus of claim 5, wherein the vessel is supported by a base and the frame is mounted to the base.

8-20. (Cancelled)

21. (Currently Amended) The ~~device containment apparatus~~ radiation shield of claim [[19]] 49, and further comprising an end cap formed of a radiation shielding material, the end cap positioned at one end of the plurality of first panels to cap an opening formed at the end of the plurality of first panels.[[.]]

22-31. (Cancelled)

32. (Currently Amended) The device containment apparatus of claim [[29]] 52, and further comprising an end cap formed of a radiation shielding material, the end cap positioned at one end of the plurality of first panels to cap an opening formed at the end of the plurality of first panels.

33. (Currently Amended) The device containment apparatus of claim [[26]] 52, and further comprising a frame wherein the vessel is at least partially disposed within the ~~frame and the radiation shield is coupled to the frame.~~

34. (Original) The device containment apparatus of claim 33, wherein the frame is mounted to the vessel.

35. (Currently Amended) The device containment apparatus of claim [[26]] 52, wherein the vessel is supported by a ~~base and the radiation shield is mounted to the base.~~

36-38. (Cancelled)

39. (Currently Amended) A method for using a device containment vessel to reduce exposure to radioactive material, the method comprising:

providing a device containment vessel including an outer wall defining an interior area, an opening through the outer wall for accessing the interior area, and a door providing access to the interior area of the vessel;

positioning a shield adjacent the outer wall of the vessel, the shield being formed of a radiation shielding material; ~~and~~

placing an explosive device containing radioactive material in the interior area of the device containment vessel wherein the shield minimizes dispersal of radiation from the explosive ~~device. device; and~~

detonating the explosive device within the device containment vessel wherein the shield continues to minimizes dispersal of radiation from the explosive device subsequent the explosion.

40. (Cancelled)

41. (Original) The method of claim 39 wherein positioning the shield comprises positioning the shield adjacent an exterior surface of the outer wall wherein the shield surrounds a portion of the vessel.

42. (Cancelled)

43. (New) A device containment apparatus for storing an explosive device and minimizing dispersal of radioactive material, the device containment apparatus comprising:

a vessel for storing an explosive device, the vessel including a substantially spherical outer wall defining an interior area;

a first frame ring and a second frame ring, the rings positioned at generally opposite ends of the vessel; and

a radiation shield including a first shield and a second shield positioned radially outwardly from the first shield, the radiation shield able to maintain its radiation shielding capability subsequent an explosion within the interior area of the vessel,

wherein the first shield includes a first plurality of panels, each of the first panels having a first end coupled to the first frame ring, a second end coupled to the second frame ring, and a shape complementary to an outer contour of the vessel, wherein each of the first panels includes a seam plate integrally formed with an edge of the panel to overlap an adjacent panel, and further wherein each panel is formed of a radiation shielding material encased in a casing, and

wherein the second shield includes a second plurality of panels formed from a radiation shielding material encased in a casing, each of the panels coupled to the first frame ring.

44. (New) The device containment apparatus of claim 43, further comprising:

an opening through the outer wall for accessing the interior area of the vessel;

a door positionable in a first closed position and a second substantially open position for providing access to the interior area of the vessel;

a door frame shield including a plate formed of radiation shielding material and shaped to complement the contour of the containment vessel, the door frame shield defining an opening configured to fit around and abut the door; and

a door shield formed of radiation shielding material and covering an exterior surface of the door.

45. (New) The device containment apparatus of claim 43, wherein the second plurality of panels are coupled to the first frame ring by one or more hooks.

46. (New) The device containment apparatus of claim 43, wherein the radiation shielding material of the first and second panels includes a lead wool core.

47. (New) The device containment apparatus of claim 43, wherein the casing of the first and second panels is a nylon reinforced PVC covering.

48. (New) The device containment apparatus of claim 43, wherein the first and second frame rings are independent of the vessel.

49. (New) A radiation shield for installation on a vessel having an outer surface, the radiation shield comprising:

- a first frame ring positionable on the outer surface of the vessel;

- a second frame ring positionable on the outer surface of the vessel generally opposite the first frame ring;

- a first shield including a first plurality of panels, each of the first panels having a first end coupled to the first frame ring, a second end coupled to the second frame ring, and a seam plate integrally formed with an edge of the panel to overlap an adjacent panel, wherein each of the first panels includes a lead wool core encased by a nylon reinforced PVC covering; and

- a second shield including a second plurality of panels positioned radially outwardly of the first plurality of panels, wherein each of the second panels includes a first end coupled to the first frame ring by one or more hooks and a lead wool core encased by a nylon reinforced PVC covering,

wherein the first and second shields are able to maintain radiation shielding capability subsequent to an explosion within the vessel.

50. (New) The radiation shield of claim 49, wherein the vessel includes an opening through the outer surface for accessing an interior area of the vessel and a door positionable in a first closed position over the opening and a second substantially open position for providing access to the interior area of the vessel through the opening, the radiation shield further comprising:

- a door frame shield including a plate formed of a radiation shielding material and shaped to complement a contour of the vessel, the door frame shield defining an opening configured to fit around and abut the door; and

- a door shield formed of a radiation shielding material and covering an exterior surface of the door.

51. (New) The radiation shield of claim 49, wherein the first and second frame rings are integral the vessel.

52. (New) A device containment apparatus for storing an explosive device and minimizing dispersal of radioactive material, the device containment apparatus comprising:

a vessel including an outer wall at least partially enclosing an interior area for receiving explosive devices or materials, the vessel being substantially spherical in shape;

an opening through the outer wall for accessing the interior area;

a door frame substantially surrounding the opening;

a door generally supported by the door frame and moveable between an open position and a closed position for preventing access to the interior area through the opening; and

a radiation shield formed of a radiation shielding material and positioned adjacent to a portion of the vessel to prevent or minimize dispersal of radiation from radioactive materials, wherein the radiation shield maintains its radiation shielding capabilities subsequent an explosion within the vessel.

53. (New) The device containment apparatus of claim 52, wherein the radiation shield comprises:

a first shield including a first plurality of panels formed of a radiation shielding material encased in a casing; and

a second shield including a second plurality of panels positioned radially outwardly of the first shield and formed of radiation shielding material encased in a casing.

54. (New) The device containment apparatus of claim 53, wherein each of the first plurality of panels includes a seam plate integrally formed with an edge of the panel to overlap an adjacent first panel.

55. (New) The device containment apparatus of claim 53, wherein at least one of the first plurality of panels and the second plurality of panels includes a lead wool core encased in a nylon reinforced PVC covering.

56. (New) A radiation shield for installation on a vessel having an outer surface, the radiation shield comprising:

an first frame ring positionable on the outer surface of the vessel;

a second frame ring positionable on the outer surface of the vessel generally opposite the first frame ring;

a first plurality of panels formed of a radiation shielding material encased by a casing and arranged proximate a portion of the vessel, each of the panels having a first end coupled to the first frame ring, a second end coupled to the second frame ring, and a seam plate positioned along a seam between adjacent panels and overlapping the adjacent panels, where each of the panels is shaped to complement a contour of the vessel.

57. (New) The radiation shield of claim 56, further comprising a second plurality of panels positioned radially outwardly of the first plurality of panels, and wherein each of the second panels is formed of radiation shielding material encased in a casing.

58. (New) The radiation shield of claim 57, wherein at least one of the first plurality of panels and the second plurality of panels includes a lead wool core encased in a nylon reinforced PVC covering.